that there has been a heavy increase in the number of incidents of child prostitution in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a special team has been constituted recently to conduct indepth study of the said problem and to suggest about an action plan; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan recommended by the said team so far to check the child prostitution?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. There are no reliable statistics available about the number of child prostitutes.

(c) and (d). The Government of India set up a Central Advisory Committee on Child Prostitution in March, 1994 which has submitted its report in May, 1994. The report contains recommendations in the area of enforcement of the law, removal of child prostitutes from redlight areas, institutionalised care of such rescued child prostitutes, counselling and vocational training for rehabilitation purpose and the setting up of an effective machinery for the implementation of the recommendations of the report. It has also recommended drawing up a plan for imparting appropriate orientation and sensitization training for such policy officers as well as other custodial officers who would be dealing with the problem of child prostitution.

[English]

Use of IAF Installations for Civil Flights

2946. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Air Force installations in certain places are being used for operation of civil flights;

(b) if so, the names of such airports with periods upto which such use is being made;

(c) whether passengers are subjected to inconvenience in such airports because of security and other administrative controls enforced by the IAF authorities; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the airfields being used for operating civil flights are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). The passenger handling is done at the civil terminals, which are under the administrative control of Airports Authority of India. No incidence has come to the notice of Ministry of Defence/Indian Air Force where passengers were subjected to inconvenience at these airfields.

STATEMENT

1. Agra
2. Bagdogra
3. Bhuj
4. Chandigarh
5. Chabua
6. Gwalior
7. Jammu
8. Jamnagar
9. Jodhpur
10. Jorhat
11. Kanpur
12. Leh
13. Pune
14. Silchar
15. Srinagar
16. Tezpur

[Translation]

Development of Waterways

2947. SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned Russian rivers carry tide of investment" appearing in the 'Observer dated' July 13, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to develop rivers in the country on the lines of Russia; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The information relating to development of Inland Water Transport in Russia and other countries like USA and Netherlands is being used as inputs for formulation of IWT development strategy and programmes in India.

[English]

Four Laning of National Highway No. 8.

2948. SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ BHAI CHIKHALIA :

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop the present National Highway No. 8 between Ahmedabad and Bombay into four lane road;

(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard:

(c) if so. the details thereof including the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon: and

(d) the steps taken and proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Assessment for developing the present National Highway No. 8 between Ahmedabad and Bombay into four lane road has been made and development is being taken up in selected stretches. The details thereof are as under :

(i) 106 km. are alreay four laned.

(ii) Four laning of 157 Km. costing Rs. 224.70 crores stands sanctioned under 30 road/ bridge projects and is at various stages of progress.

(iii) Four laning of 16 Km. at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.35 crores is proposed to be taken up during Annual Plan 1996-97.

[Translation]

Visit of PM of Sri Lanka

2949. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister of Sri Lanka had visited India recently:

(b) if so. the details of talks held by her with Indian leaders: and

(c) the extent to which the friendly relationship of India-Sri Lanka is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in the first week of July. The visit was a purely personal visit.

(b) No official talks were held during her visit.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of Defence Spare Parts

2950. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General. Quality Assurances has started production of the defence spare parts in the country itself with the assistance of domestic industries.

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the value of such spare parts supplied by the domestic industries: and

(d) the value of foreign exchange saved as a result of the production of these spare parts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. About 6000 industrial units are in the compendium of DGQA.

(c) and (d). From 1965 upto 31 March 1996. stores valued at about Rs. 2000 crore have been supplied through the efforts of DGQA. This is the value of ab-initio developmental orders. The follow up orders on this by the three services would be many times more. Over 55000 items have thus been indigenised. It is not possible to accurately indicate the foreign exchange saved except to say that it would be much more than Rs. 2000 crore which was incurred in developing the items indigenously.

[English]

Inland Water Navigation in Kerala

2951. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government for development of Inland Water Navigation in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from Kerala for the Inland Water Navigation; and

(c) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) As a result of various survey and studies conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), on the entire length of the West Coast Canal between Kovalam and Kasergode during the period from 1987 to 1992. the stretch of the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 Kms), the Champakara Canal (14 Kms) and the Udyogmandal Canal (23 Kms) have been declared as a National Waterway-III with effect from 1st February, 1993. The IWAI is implementing various developmental works like dredging. channel marking etc. in this National Waterway for improving and maintaining its navigability. Navigational locks in the Waterway are being maintained in operational condition. During the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96, a total quantity of 3.44 lakhs cu. meters were dredged. During the year 1995-96, an expenditure of Rs. 97.00 lakhs was incurred in the development of this National Waterway in Kerala against an approved outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs.